Import of Silk Fabrics

1413 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duty free imports of Silk fabrics are permitted;

(b) if so, the total value, separately by Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras Port Offices and number of import licences granted during 1st April, 1991 to 31st March, 1993; and

(c) what steps are taken so that fabrics are not misuesed or diverted to domestic consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The EXIM Policy, 1992—97 permits import of silk fabrics for export purposes under the Duty Exemption Scheme contained in Chapter-VII of the Policy Book.

(b) The information is contained in the Statement. (See below)

(c) The EXIM POLICY (Para-67) permits transfer/sale of imported material including fabrics under the Duty Exemption Scheme after exporter has fulfilled the export obligations. Necessary measures are under consideration to prevent misuse of the aforementioned facility.

Statement

Period	Name of Port	No. of Licence	CRF Value (in Rs.)
April' 91 to March' 92	Bombay	5	2,51,07,486
	Calcutta	4	11,18,714
	Madras	Nil	Nil
	Delhi	24	4,35,66,296
	Bangalore	Nil	Nil
April' 91 to March' 93	Bombay	9	4,20,09,801
	Calcutta	4	51,33,000
	Madras	Nil	Nil
	Delhi	64	8,86,59,730
	Bangalore	Nil	Nil

Output of Leather Industry in the country

1414. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated output of leather industry in the country as on doate and the approximate number of people employed in it;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints from foreign markets about the quality of our leather products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are planning to modernise the leather industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Since the leather industry is primarily in the small and tiny sector and cattered all over the country, reliable statistics of its domestic productions are not available. The working Group on 'Leather and Leather Goods Industries' for the 8th Five Year Plan had estimated the value of output of Leather & Leather Products in 1990-91 to be of the order of Rs. 4740 crores and had assessed the number of people employed in the sector to be 1.4 million.

(b) No such complaints have been received in the recent past.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A National Leather Development Programme (NLDP) with UNDP assistance is currently being implemented for integrated development of the Leather Industry. The programme includes modernization of the industry.

Dunkel Draft Agreement on Agricultural Sector

1415. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dunkel Draft Agreement, if finalised, would adversely affect our agricultural sector;

(b) the areas of our agricultural sector which are likely to be adversely affected;

(c) whether it is a fact that seeds, plants and genes are proposed to be patented including the process and product, if so, which are the agricultural products plants and genes which would come under Patent Laws;

(d) what are the counter proposals suggested by India in Dunkel Draft to avert adverse effects on our agricultural sector; and

(e) what is the final perception in the eventuality of failure of deadlock to amend the Dunkel Draft proposals with regard to seeds, plants and genes patents for products and process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (e) Analysis made by the government shows that the Dunkel proposals on agriculture would create no problems for our agricultural policies in the short and medium terms, India does not have to undertake any reduction commitments regarding domestic support to agriculture or concerning the public distribution system. Countries with balance-of-payments problems are also not required to provide minimum market access. India is seeking additional flexibility on domestic support and minimum market access provisions to ensure that there are no adverse effects in the long term also.

The Dunkel proposals on TRIPs require that 'members shall provide for the protection of plant varieties either by patents or by an effective sui-generis system or by any combination thereof. Thus an option has been given to countries to provide protection to IPRs in the field either through patenting or through an effective sui-generis systems. It has not been spelt out as to which particular plant varieties should be protected. Discussions with principal trading partners lead us to believe that the farmer's